(ii) Need to take preventive steps to check closure of Industries in Kota, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the industries in the industrial city of Rajasthan, Kota, have been closing down in a planned way. Recently, Sudarshan Textile, Oriental Power Cables and Wool factories in Kota have closed down but now the back bone of the labourers of Kota, Padam Singh Staties, J.K. Tyre Cord and J.K. Acrylic have also been closing down in a planned manner. On the one hand it will disrupt industrial peace and on the other hand the development and life of Kota would also be affected.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that in the large interest of the labourers an immediate step to check the closure of the industries in Kota should be taken.

(iii) Need to provide Central Assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up Industries for Development of Backward District of Balaghat.

12.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Sir, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no industry district. Managese Copper is in abundence in the district. In fact, one third of countries copper is available there. Besides, granite, lime stone, donamite and other minerals alongwith 'Sagon' and 'Sagwan' wood and good quality of bamboo are available. Despite the availability of the above mentioned items, there is acute unemployment. People go to other areas for employment and due to it there is imbalance of development in the country. The industries based on these raw materials and minerals like paper mill and sugar mill can be set up there.

My submission to the Central Government is that a survey of this area should be conducted and industries should be set up there with the assistance of Central and State Government for the development of this backward area.

(iv) Need to Ban use of Plastic Bottles used by Soft Drink Manufacturers

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious matter concerning the health of the people of the nation. According to Inter Press Service, Washington, plastic Pepsi bottles from the United States of America are being dumped in India where they are processed under unsafe conditions. The scrap pepsi bottles of coca cola and other soft drink from California are stockpiled at Tiruvalluvar in South India. The Company washes and chips the scrap, then send it to the factory nearby Manali where a large number of workers are working, they are complaining of damage being caused to them by those plastic bottles. Particularly the hot water rinsing of plastic bottles is dangerous to health as the workers have not been provided gloves and masks for their protection. There are at least two dozen of such factories in that region. The process can be hazardous as the plastic bottles when heated gives off toxic vapours that can cause skin rashes, respiratory problems and eye irritation.

I urge upon the Government to ban the use of such plastic bottles which have been dumped in those factories.

(v) Need to Evolve Effective Mechanism to solve the problems of workers of sick PSUs particularly in West Bengal

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : A spectre of uncertainty and serious apprehension looms large over the future of 19 Central Public Sector Units in particular, located in West Bengal which stand referred to BIFR. These PSUs are under the Ministries of Industry, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Textiles. The number of employees and workers in those Central Public Sector Units are about seventy thousand. It was noticed that in 1996 payment of wages was irregular in most of these Central Public Sector Units particularly in NTC, NJMC, Jessop, MAMC, BOGL, Cycle Corporation of India, Refractory Units of Burn Standard Company etc., because of non-provision of non-plan assistance by the Government. Production was also affected in most cases due to lack of working capital and non-plan support. Besides wages, payment of other statutory dues like PF and gratuity to retired employees also in a number of CPSUs still remains outstanding.

It is apprehended that the entire situation may further worsen this year, if a comprehensive plan is not chalked out. I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up an effective mechanism to monitor the problem of making regular payment of wages and other statutory dues of the workers and employees and for keeping the production unaffected by making adequate provision of non-plan support for all these sick Central Public Sector Units.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that it is a very very important issue. I would request them to really look into this matter. I hope not the Government's usual, routine